

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SCA-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-01
USIA-06 INR-07 CIAE-00 /027 W
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R 310450Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7708
INFO AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (BURNS, DOUGLAS M.)
SUBJECT: W/W DISAPPEARANCE OF AMCIT

REF: BANGKOK 33419

SUMMARY: THE RTG (TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES) COMPLETED ITS SEARCH FOR MISSING AMCIT DOUGLAS BURNS NOW ONE MONTH OVERDUE FROM A PLANNED SOLO HIKE THROUGHT THE KLONG NAKA WILDLIFE PRESERVE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE RTG, REACTING TO THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR A THOROUGH AND VIGOROUS SEARCH, HAS NOW APPARENTLY CONCLUDED GROUND AND AIR OPERATIONS ALONG THE PLANNED ROUTE THROUGH RANONG AND SURAT THANI PROVINCES, BELIEVED TAKEN BY PSYCHIATRIST-NATURALIST DOUGLAS M. BURNS.

2. DECEMBER 2-4 CONSULATE SONGKHLA DISPATCHED POLITICAL ASSISTANT TO PLANNED POINT OF ENTRY IN KLONG NAKA WILDLIFE PRESERVE, AS WELL AS SURAT THANI EXIT POINT, TO TALK TO FORESTRY AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

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FORESTRY OFFICIALS INDICATED BURNS ENTERED PRESERVE ON NOVEMBER 8. DECEMBER 9, ASSISTANT BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) COMMANDER, POLICE MAJOR GENERAL UDOM, VISITED SEARCH SITE
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AND LEARNED THAT BURNS HAD INDICATED THAT IF HE COULD NOT CROSS THE KHAO PHRA MI MOUNTAIN RANGE AND TRAVEL SOUTH VIA THE KLONG SAENG TO KING AMPHOE PHANOM, WITHIN EIGHT DAYS HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO RANONG. LOCAL OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT MOST DIFFICULT PART OF TREK WOULD HAVE BEEN THE KHAO PHRA MOUNTAIN RANGE WHICH IS HEAVILY FORESTED

AND AT THAT TIME RECEIVING VERY HEAVY RAINS.

3. PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF SURAT THANI AT SAME TIME
ALERTED ALL DISTRICT OFFICERS AND ORDERED THAT ALL
VILLAGE HEADMEN BE INFORMED AND PROVIDE HIM WITH ANY
INFORMATION CONCERNING DR. BURNS.

4. TWO TEAMS OF BORDER PATROL POLICE AND 5TH DIVISION
MILITARY TROOPS CONDUCTED GROUND SEARCH ALONG DR. BURN'S
PLANNED ROUTE OF TRAVEL. THEY WERE ASSISTED BY AIR SEARCH
SUPPORT. SEVERAL SIGHTINGS WERE REPORTED BUT IDENTITY WAS
PROVENT TO BE OTHER THAN DR. BURNS.

5. MRS. BURNS HAS BEEN KEPT ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS. SHE
HAS INDICATED HER INTENTION TO REMAIN IN THAILAND UNTIL THE
SPRING TO CLEAN UP PERSONAL AFFAIRS. DR. AND MRS. BURNS
HAD EXPECTED TO DEPART THAILAND DEFINITELY IN JANUARY.
MRS. BURNS HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DR. BURNS' FAMILY.

6. TIM HAMILTON, CONSUL IN SONGKHLA, HAS BEEN REQUESTED
TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM FORESTRY OFFICIALS WHO
LAST SIGHTED BURNS.
WHITEHOUSE

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